(b) the steps being taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b)The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Floor rental of WLL phones

1618. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representation has been received by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India for cancellation/reduction in floor rental of WLL phones;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that instead of Rs. 140, Rs. 540 is being charged as floor rental; and

(d) what action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (d) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has reported that it received several representations for review of floor rental for handheld WLL phones. After the said review, TRAI has specified a monthly rental of Rs. 200/- for the same vide Telecommunication Tariff (22nd Amendment) Order dated 4th July 2002, which allows flexibility also to offer alternative packages in order to give benefits of technology and competition to subscribers in a deregulated environment.

VPTs by private operators

1619. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether private operators have shown any interest in providing telephones in remote areas of rural India;